



IAP15 Rec'd PCT/PTO 31 OCT 2006

PATENT APPLICATION  
Q82646

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hiroo MATSUNAGA

Serial No.: 10/502,015

Confirmation No.: 8516

Filed: July 20, 2004

Group Art Unit: 1733

Examiner: Steven D. Maki

For: PNEUMATIC TIRE AND PRODUCTION METHOD OF THE SAME

**STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned attorney hereby states that, based upon information and belief, each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Respectfully submitted,

Steven M. Gruskin  
Registration No. 36,818

Date: October 31, 2006



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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 AND 1.98**

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified), which the Examiner may deem material to the patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, with the exception of U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent publications; and co-pending non-provisional U.S. applications filed subsequent to June 30, 2003.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after either a Final Office Action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), but before payment of the Issue/Publication Fees and, therefore, Applicant

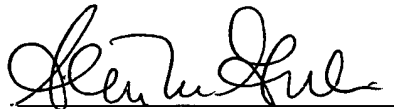
is submitting herewith a check for the fee of \$180.00 as required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p), accompanied by a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e).

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from the Japanese Patent Office in a counterpart application (JP 2002-011444) citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of at least that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the Japanese Patent Office. In this regard, Applicant notes that JP 53-005349, which was cited by the Japanese Patent Office, is not being submitted herewith inasmuch as its counterpart U.S. Patent No. 3,409,491 was cited by the U.S. Examiner in the Office Action dated March 13, 2006.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all additional required fees (with the exception of the Issue/Publication Fees) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is also attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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Substitute for Form PTO-1449

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

OCT 31 2006 (use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

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of

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*Complete if Known*

Application Number	10/502,015
Confirmation Number	8516
Filing Date	July 20, 2004
First Named Inventor	Hiroo MATSUNAGA
Art Unit	1733
Examiner Name	Steven D. Maki
Attorney Docket Number	Q82646

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
	AA				
	AB				
	AC				
	AD				
	AE				
	AF				
	AG				
	AH				
	AI				

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
	AJ	JP	11-208216	A	08-03-1999	Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd.	Abstract
	AK	JP	07-061214	A	03-07-1995	Bridgestone Corp.	Abstract
	AL	JP	11-198615	A	07-27-1999	Sumitomo Rubber Ind., Ltd.	Abstract
	AM	JP	11-286203	A	10-19-1999	Yokohama Rubber co., Ltd.	Abstract
	AN	JP	06-254990	A	09-13-1994	Bridgestone Corp.	Abstract
	AO	JP	08-011233	A	01-16-1996	Bridgestone Corp.	Abstract
	AP	JP	09-226018	A	09-02-1997	Bridgestone Corp.	Abstract
	AQ	JP	10-138708	A	05-26-1998	Bridgestone Corp.	Abstract
	AR						
	AS						
	AT						
	AU						

**NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>
	AV		
	AW		
	AX		
	AY		
	AZ		

Examiner Signature:

Date Considered:

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or follow the hyperlink from the title of the document to the intranet. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to indicate here if English language translation is attached.